

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-67. (Canceled)

68. (Currently Amended) A method for configuring an appliance using a universal remote control having command keys, a transmission circuit for transmitting data, and a receiver circuit for receiving RF transmission, the method comprising:

storing within a memory device of the appliance a mapping between one or more appliance operational preferences and an individual;

receiving data directly from an RFID tag via the receiver of the universal remote control, the data from the RFID tag being unique to the ~~an~~ individual;

forwarding from the universal remote control to the appliance via the transmission circuit the data received from the RFID tag; and

causing a setup program of the appliance to use the data received from the RFID tag and forwarded from the universal remote control to retrieve from the memory device of the appliance the one or more appliance operational preferences ~~configure the appliance according to one or more preferences~~ that have been mapped ~~within a memory device of the appliance~~ to the individual represented by the data received from the RFID tag and to configure the appliance according to the retrieved appliance operational preferences.

69. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 68, wherein the data received from

the RFID tag and forwarded from the universal remote control is used by the setup procedure of the appliance to limit access to an appliance function.

70. (Original) The method as recited in claim 68, wherein the appliance function is utilized to access content.

71. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 68 wherein the data received from the RFID tag is forwarded from the universal remote control to the appliance in a data field ~~as a part~~ of a command transmission to the appliance.

72. (Previously Presented) A method for setting up a universal remote control having command keys, a transmission circuit for transmitting commands in response to activation of one or more command keys, and a receiver circuit for receiving RF transmissions, the method comprising:

receiving data through RF transmissions from a plurality of RFID tags via the receiver of the universal remote control, each RFID tag being associated with a different individual;

determining relative signal strength of the RF transmissions; and

using data received from the RFID tag corresponding to the RF transmissions having the greatest relative signal strength to cause select commands to be mapped to select command keys whereby the universal remote control is set up such that activation of one or more of the select command keys causes the universal remote control to issue via the transmission circuit one or more of the select commands to command operation of one or more appliances as established by one or more preferences that have been mapped to the individual represented by the used data.

73. (Original) The method as recited in claim 72, comprising displaying command keys according to one or more preferences established for the individual represented by the used data.

74. (Original) The method as recited in claim 72, comprising limiting access to command keys by the individual represented by the used data.

75. (Original) The method as recited in claim 72, comprising making a favorite channels list accessible for the individual represented by the used data.

76. (Original) The method as recited in claim 72, wherein the preferences are stored locally on the universal remote control.

77. (Original) The method as recited in claim 72, wherein the preferences are stored remotely from the universal remote control.

78. (Original) The method as recited in claim 73, comprising establishing a connection with a server having the remotely stored preferences.

79. (Original) The method as recited in claim 78, comprising establishing the connection by means of an intermediate device.

80. (Original) The method as recited in claim 79, wherein the intermediate device comprises a cable set top box.

81. (Original) The method as recited in claim 79, wherein the intermediate device comprises a personal computer.

82. (Currently Amended) A method for setting up a universal remote control having a device dedicated to obtaining data from a machine readable tag and a separate transmission circuit for communicating commands to an appliance, the method comprising:

receiving into the universal remote control via the device of the universal remote control dedicated to obtaining data from a machine readable tag data obtained from a machine readable tag associated with an appliance, the machine readable tag storing standardized information that functions to identify at least the appliance and manufacturer ~~vendor~~ of the appliance; and

causing a setup procedure of the universal remote control to be invoked whereupon the setup procedure of the universal remote control uses the data received into the universal remote control to cause select commands to be mapped to select command keys of the universal remote control whereby the universal remote control is set up such that subsequent activation of one or more of the select command keys of the universal remote control causes the universal remote control to issue via ~~a~~ the transmission circuit of the universal remote control one or more of the select commands to thereby command operation of the appliance associated with the machine readable tag from which the data was obtained via the device of the universal remote control dedicated to obtaining data from a machine readable tag.

83. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 82, wherein the machine readable tag comprises a UPC label and the device of the universal remote control dedicated to obtaining data

from a machine readable tag comprises a device dedicated to the purpose of obtaining data from the UPC label.

84. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 82, wherein the machine readable tag comprises an RFID label and the device of the universal remote control dedicated to obtaining data from a machine readable tag comprises a device dedicated to the purpose of obtaining data from the RFID label.

85. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 84, comprising using the data received into the universal remote control to select the select commands from a library of commands locally stored on the universal remote control.

86. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 84, comprising using the data received into the universal remote control to select the select commands from a library of commands stored remotely from the universal remote control and downloading the select commands into the universal remote control.

87. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 86, comprising causing the universal remote control to directly communicate with a server device associated with the library of commands.

88. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 86, comprising causing the universal remote control to communicate via an intermediate device with a server device associated with

the library of commands.

89. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 88, wherein the intermediate device comprises a cable set top box.

90. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 88, wherein the intermediate device comprises a personal computer.

91. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 84, wherein the setup procedure of the universal remote control further uses the data received into the universal remote control to automatically assign the appliance associated with the machine readable tag to a select operational mode of the universal remote control whereupon, in response to the universal remote control being placed into the select operational mode, the universal remote control is set up such that subsequent activation of one or more of the select command keys of the universal remote control causes the universal remote control to issue via a transmission circuit of the universal remote control one or more of the select commands to thereby command operation of the appliance associated with the machine readable tag without again requiring use of the device of the universal remote control dedicated to obtaining data from a machine readable tag by the setup procedure of the data received into the universal remote control.

92. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 84, comprising receiving user input into the universal remote control that specifies a select operational mode of the universal remote control to which the appliance associated with the machine readable tag is to be assigned

whereupon, in response to the universal remote control being placed into the select operational mode, the universal remote control is set up such that subsequent activation of one or more of the select command keys of the universal remote control causes the universal remote control to issue via the transmission circuit of the universal remote control one or more of the select commands to thereby command operation of the appliance associated with the machine readable tag without again requiring use of the device of the universal remote control dedicated to obtaining data from a machine readable tag ~~by the setup procedure of the data received into the universal remote control.~~

93. (Currently Amended) A method for setting up a universal remote control having a device dedicated to obtaining data from a machine readable tag and a separate transmission circuit for communicating commands to an appliance, the method comprising:

receiving into the universal remote control via the device of the universal remote control dedicated to obtaining data from a machine readable tag data obtained from a plurality of machine readable tags each associated with an appliance, each of the plurality of machine readable tags storing standardized information that functions to identify at least its respectively associated appliance and ~~vendor~~ manufacturer of its respectively associated appliance; and

causing a setup procedure of the universal remote control to be invoked whereupon the setup procedure of the universal remote control uses the data received into the universal remote control to cause select commands to be mapped to select command keys of the universal remote control whereby the universal remote control is set up such that subsequent activation of one or more of the select command keys of the universal remote control causes the universal remote control to issue via the transmission circuit of the universal remote control one or more of the

select commands to command operation of one or more appliance associated with the plurality of machine readable tags from which data was obtained via the device of the universal remote control dedicated to obtaining data from a machine readable tag.

94. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 93 92, wherein each of the plurality of machine readable tags comprises a UPC label and the device of the universal remote control dedicated to obtaining data from a machine readable tag comprises a device dedicated to the purpose of obtaining data from the UPC label.

95. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 93 92, wherein each of the plurality of machine readable tags comprises an RFID label and the device of the universal remote control dedicated to obtaining data from a machine readable tag comprises a device dedicated to the purpose of obtaining data from the RFID label.

96. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 95 94, comprising using the data received into the universal remote control to select the select commands from a library of commands locally stored on the universal remote control.

97. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 95 94, comprising using the data received into the universal remote control to select the select commands from a library of commands remotely stored from the universal remote control and downloading the select commands into the universal remote control.

98. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 97 ~~96~~, comprising causing the universal remote control to directly communicate with a server device associated with the library of commands.

99. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 97 ~~96~~, comprising causing the universal remote control to communicate via an intermediate device with a server device associated with the library of commands.

100. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 99 ~~98~~, wherein the intermediate device comprises a cable set top box.

101. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 99 ~~98~~, wherein the intermediate device comprises a personal computer.

102. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 95 ~~94~~, wherein the setup procedure of the universal remote control further uses the data received into the universal remote control to automatically assign the appliance associated with at least one of the plurality of machine readable tags to a select operational mode of the universal remote control whereupon, in response to the universal remote control being placed into the select operational mode, the universal remote control is set up such that subsequent activation of one or more of the select command keys of the universal remote control causes the universal remote control to issue via the transmission circuit of the universal remote control one or more of the select commands to thereby command operation of the appliance associated with the one or more of the plurality of

machine readable tags without again requiring use of the device of the universal remote control dedicated to obtaining data from a machine readable tag by the setup procedure of the data received into the universal remote control.

103. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 102 ~~101~~, wherein the select operational mode of the universal remote control comprises a home theater mode.

104. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 102 ~~101~~, wherein the select operational mode of the universal remote control comprises a room mode.

105. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 95 ~~94~~, comprising receiving user input into the universal remote control that specifies at least one select operational mode of the universal remote control to which the appliance associated with one or more of the plurality of machine readable tags is to be assigned whereupon, in response to the universal remote control being placed into the select operational mode, the universal remote control is set up such that subsequent activation of one or more of the select command keys of the universal remote control causes the universal remote control to issue via the transmission circuit of the universal remote control one or more of the select commands to thereby command operation of the appliance associated with the one or more of the plurality of machine readable tags without again requiring use of the device of the universal remote control dedicated to obtaining data from a machine readable tag by the setup procedure of the data received into the universal remote control.

106. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 105 ~~104~~, wherein the select

operational mode of the universal remote control comprises a home theater mode.

107. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 105 ~~104~~, wherein the select operational mode of the universal remote control comprises a room mode.

108. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 84, further comprising transmitting from the universal remote control by the device of the universal remote control dedicated to obtaining data from a machine readable tag an RF signal to initiate obtaining of the data from the RFID tags.

109. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 84, wherein the device of the universal remote control dedicated to obtaining data from a machine readable tag obtains data from each of the plurality of machine readable tags within an area of radio communication with the universal remote control.